

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/068 W

-----082426 120326Z /70

R 111430Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6488
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PEPR, PN
YUBJECT: BROAD FRONT OF PROFESSIONALS' STATEMENT ON TREATY

REF: PANAMA 2400

1. REFTEL (PARAS 5-7) REPORTED A WEEKEND COMMUNIQUE BY THE BROAD FRONT OF PROFESSIONALS (FAP) DEALING WITH THE TREATY ISSUE, PARTICULARLY THE DECONCINI RESERVATION. THE FAP WAS BEGOTTEN BY THE GOP LAST FALL AS A FOIL TO THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT MOVEMENT OF INDEPENDENT LAWYERS. THE FAP HAS HEWED FAIRLY CLOSELY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S "LINE". IT IS PROBABLY UNFAIR TO CHARACTERIZE FAP AS STRICTLY A GOP "FRONT", BUT ITS RAISON D'ETERE IS TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT.

2. THIS DECLARATION, LIKE THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AS A WHOLE CARRIES ENOUGH WATER ON BOTH SHOULDERS TO AVOID WHAT WILL EVENTUATE IF THE TREATIES ARE FINALLY APPROVED WITH DECONCINI UNTOUCHED. THE STATEMENT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT DECONCINI IS DETESTABLE, A THING AGAINST WHICH ANY PATRIOTIC PANAMANIAN WOULD OBJECT. BUT IT THEN STOPS SHORT OF SAYING THAT A TREATY WITH THIS IN IT MUST BE REJECTED
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(OR THAT IT CAN BE ACCEPTED). IT WINDS UP MERELY ECHOING GOP CALLS FOR "SEEING THINGS CALMLY" AND AVOIDING PRECIPITATE ACTION.

3. THIS STATEMENT SHOULDNOT BE READAS INDICATING THAT AN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF PUBLIC OPINION IS EQUIVOCAL IN ITS REACTION TO DECONCINI. IT MERELY SHOWS THAT

SOME GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS ARE WILLING TO TAKE THE
GOVERNMENT'S ADVICE AND WAIT UNTIL ALL THE CARDS ARE
DEALT TO DECIDE WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH THE GAME.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, TREATY RATIFICATION, COMMUNIQUEs, PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA02423
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780156-0940
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780470/aaaachnn.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 509af0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PANAMA 2400
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3009601
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> VJT 20040917
Subject: BROAD FRONT OF PROFESSIONALS' STATEMENT ON TREATY
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PEPR, PN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/509af0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014